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**The Director of the United States  
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*Has received an application for a patent for a new and useful invention. The title and description of the invention are enclosed. The requirements of law have been complied with, and it has been determined that a patent on the invention shall be granted under the law.*

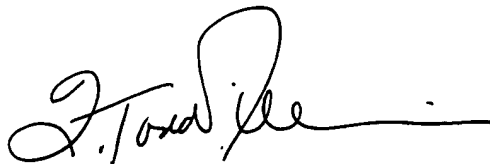
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**United States Patent**

*Grants to the person(s) having title to this patent the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States of America or importing the invention into the United States of America for the term set forth below, subject to the payment of maintenance fees as provided by law.*

*If this application was filed prior to June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is the longer of seventeen years from the date of grant of this patent or twenty years from the earliest effective U.S. filing date of the application, subject to any statutory extension.*

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Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office



Attest



US006105818A

# United States Patent [19] Speranza

[11] Patent Number: 6,105,818  
[45] Date of Patent: \*Aug. 22, 2000

## [54] FOOD DISPENSING CYCLE AND MEANS

[75] Inventor: Angelo Speranza, Surrey, United Kingdom

[73] Assignee: Burlodge Limited, Surrey, United Kingdom

[\*] Notice: This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

[21] Appl. No.: 08/776,097

[22] PCT Filed: May 8, 1996

[86] PCT No.: PCT/GB96/01097

§ 371 Date: Feb. 19, 1997

§ 102(e) Date: Feb. 19, 1997

[87] PCT Pub. No.: WO96/35362

PCT Pub. Date: Nov. 14, 1996

## [30] Foreign Application Priority Data

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[51] Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... A47J 39/00

[52] U.S. Cl. .... 221/1; 221/150 R; 312/236; 165/918; 219/386

[58] Field of Search ..... 221/1, 150 R, 221/150 HC; 312/236, 249.8, 249.11; 165/918; 219/385, 386, 387

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## [57] ABSTRACT

A method of dispensing food whereby food prepared at a first location is transported to a second location for dispensing in a working cycle characterized by the steps of: apportioning the food onto a plurality of trays (20A, 20B) at the first location, loading the plurality of trays (20A, 20B) into a rack (15) to give, in combination, a spaced array of loaded trays; the spaced array having predetermined overall dimensions; transporting the spaced array to an intermediate location, placing the loaded rack into a containment (11) with an internal volume (12) of sufficient size to receive at least one spaced array; transporting the containment along with its spaced array or arrays to the second location; regenerating food in the spaced array while within the containment; dispensing loaded trays (20A, 20B) from the spaced array; and returning the racks (15) back to the first or some other location for re-use. Apparatus for dispensing food comprising a containment (11) adapted to receive at least, one removable rack (15), the rack being adapted to contain at least two removable trays (20A, 20B) for food for regeneration.

1 Claim, 2 Drawing Sheets

